

WAR OF THE CIRCUSES RINGLING BROS. OWN BIG 3-RING SHOWS

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Sept. 6.—The early days of November will make Kansas City the center of the nation when to the dozen men of every class of society the announcement is made by the Ringling Brothers and the Buffalo Bill-Pawnee Shows. The Ringlings have agreed to oppose the claims of Barnum & Bailey Brothers and the Buffalo Bill-Pawnee Shows. The Ringlings have agreed to oppose the claims of Barnum & Bailey Brothers and the Buffalo Bill-Pawnee Shows. The Ringlings have agreed to oppose the claims of Barnum & Bailey Brothers and the Buffalo Bill-Pawnee Shows. The Ringlings have agreed to oppose the claims of Barnum & Bailey Brothers and the Buffalo Bill-Pawnee Shows.

The Ringlings aspire to a monopoly of the circus business of the country, and they come pretty close to having it. Several years ago they purchased the Forepaugh and the Sells Brothers' circuses until they were glad to sell to the Ringlings, and then both of these were disbanded and their equipment absorbed among the Ringling shows. Then the Ringlings went after the Barnum & Bailey show and the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show, both of which had been developed to greatness by James A. Bailey, the greatest genius of the circus business that ever lived. But even Bailey, with all his ability, could not withstand the combined genius of the five Ringling brothers all working together as a unit, and the year before he died the Barnum show lost so much money that the stockholders, the majority of whom lived in England, were glad to sell both the Barnum and the Buffalo Bill shows at half price to the Ringlings.

This year there is only one big circus that worries the Ringlings, and that is the Harnett-Wallace Show. It is owned by Benjamin Wallace of Terre Haute, Ind. He is one of the ablest circus men of this country. He has been in the business for nearly half a century and has grown wealthy. This season the Ringlings have caused him over nearly the whole length and breadth of the continent, and they must have caused him to lose a great deal of money, but he sold a friend in St. Joseph two weeks ago while his show was there that only his knowledge of the country and the circus business had enabled him to escape from the net that had been wound around him. His had dodged traps and there seeking towns where he could escape without the near suspicion of any of the Ringling shows and has managed to keep afloat.

The 161 Ranch Wild West Show is the particular prey of the Ringlings now. The Barnum Circus and the Buffalo Bill-Pawnee Bill Show are both after the 161 Ranch Show. The 161 Ranch Show had begun to kill St. Joseph for Labor Day, but had neglected to rent a lot for the show. Just a few hours before their agent had planned to pay for the lot the agent of the Ringlings went to St. Joseph and rented not only the lot upon which the 161 Ranch Show had planned to exhibit, but rented every other available lot in the city for several weeks, thus shutting out the 161 Ranch Show from exhibiting there at all this fall. Then the 161 Ranch Show decided to show in Leavenworth, Kan., that day. The Barnum Show will be in St. Joseph September 6. To make the opposition still harder the Ringlings will play the Barnum show in Kansas City September 4, and the Buffalo Bill-Pawnee Bill Show will be here September 18 and in St. Joseph September 19.

The till holders of the opposition shows are having a warm time of it. The Ringlings have instructed their advance man to plaster the whole country around here with their paper and every road leading into Leavenworth and from all places where patronage could possibly come to the 161 Ranch Show have been

covered by the full power of the Ringling Shows. They have also caused it to be known that the Ringlings have agreed to oppose the claims of Barnum & Bailey Brothers and the Buffalo Bill-Pawnee Shows.

It is not the war of a few men or even a few of the heads of the schools. The Ringlings have the greatest army ever to oppose the claims of Barnum & Bailey Brothers and the Buffalo Bill-Pawnee Shows. The Ringlings have agreed to oppose the claims of Barnum & Bailey Brothers and the Buffalo Bill-Pawnee Shows. The Ringlings have agreed to oppose the claims of Barnum & Bailey Brothers and the Buffalo Bill-Pawnee Shows.

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